

Remarks

Claims 1-18, 20-26, 28-31 and 33-36 are now pending in this application. Claims 25-26, 28-31 and 33-34 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-21 and 24 are rejected. Claims 22 and 23 are objected to. Claims 1-16, 18-26, 30, and 31 have been amended. Claims 19, 27, and 32 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claims 35-36 have been newly added. No new matter has been added.

The requirement of restriction is respectfully traversed. Applicants have amended Claims 25, 26, 30, and 31. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the requirement be withdrawn.

The objection to the drawings is respectfully traversed. Applicants submit one replacement sheet formal drawing. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawing be withdrawn.

The objection to Claims 22 and 23 is respectfully traversed. Applicants have amended Claims 22 and 23. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 22 and 23 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Sexton (U.S. Patent 5,056,001) is respectfully traversed.

Sexton describes a random access memory (RAM) (40) that is coupled to a main bus (25) to provide memory space for a CPU (20) to conduct PLC operations and store user programs (column 2, lines 49-52). A hand held programmer (HHP) 60 is coupled to the main bus to enable a user to input information into a PLC (15) (column 2, lines 56-58). The hand held programmer includes a keyboard (65) through a serial port (45) on which the user types input information and further includes a display (70) to permit the user to view the input information while the input information is being keyed into the keyboard (column 2, lines 56-62). When the hand held programmer is used either to program a particular module (75A) with configuration information or to monitor the status of such module, the hand held programmer sends a data request to the module using such selected unique parameters numbers as desired (column 5, lines 11-16). The hand held programmer need not be informed as to the specifics about the structure of the module or how the module is configured (column 5, lines 26-29). Rather, the smart module sends module specific

configuration information to the hand held programmer to aid the user in setting the configuration of the module (column 5, lines 29-32).

Claim 1 recites a method for storage and retrieval of programs and data within a PLC system, the PLC system including a plurality of modules including a memory host module including a CPU and memory, at least one option module including a CPU and memory, the at least one option module including a first option module and a second option module, the first module including a memory, a backplane interconnecting the memory host module and the at least one option module, the memory host module coupled to an external device, the method comprising the steps of "storing a plurality of operating programs and data including a first and a second operating program and data in the external device coupled to the memory host module, wherein the first operating program and data corresponds to the first option module and the second operating program and data corresponds to the second option module; retrieving the first operating program and data; retaining the second operating program and data; and transmitting the first operating program and data to the first option module."

Sexton does not describe or suggest a method for storage and retrieval of programs and data within a PLC system, the PLC system including a plurality of modules including a memory host module including a CPU and memory, at least one option module including a CPU and memory, the at least one option module including a first option module and a second option module, the first module including a memory, a backplane interconnecting the memory host module and the at least one option module, the memory host module coupled to an external device, the method including the steps of storing a plurality of operating programs and data including a first and a second operating program and data in the external device coupled to the memory host module, where the first operating program and data corresponds to the first option module and the second operating program and data corresponds to the second option module, retrieving the first operating program and data, retaining the second operating program and data, and transmitting the first operating program and data to the first option module.

More specifically, Sexton does not describe or suggest storing a plurality of operating programs and data including a first and a second operating program and data in the external device coupled to the memory host module. Rather, Sexton describes storing user programs in the RAM coupled to the main bus, inputting information via the hand held programmer, viewing the input information via the hand held programmer, programming a particular

module via the hand held programmer, monitoring the status of the module via the hand held programmer, and sending a data request to the module from the hand held programmer. Accordingly, Sexton does not describe or suggest storing a plurality of operating programs and data in the external device coupled to the memory host module. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Sexton.

Claims 2-9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-9 likewise are patentable over Sexton.

Claim 10 recites a memory host for a programmable logic controller (PLC) system, the system comprising at least one option module further comprising an option module memory, the at least one option module including a first option module and a second option module, the first option module including a memory, the memory host comprising a memory, a central processing unit (CPU), and a backplane interface, the memory host coupled to an external device and configured to "retrieve a first operating program and data, wherein the first operating program and data corresponds to said first module; retain a second operating program and data, wherein the second operating program and data corresponds to said second module; and transmit the first operating program and data to the first option module, wherein said external device is configured to store a plurality of operating programs and data including the first operating program and data and the second operating program and data."

Sexton does not describe or suggest a memory host for a programmable logic controller (PLC) system, the system comprising at least one option module further comprising an option module memory, the at least one option module including a first option module and a second option module, the first option module including a memory, the memory host comprising a memory, a central processing unit (CPU), and a backplane interface, the memory host coupled to an external device and configured to retrieve a first operating program and data, where the first operating program and data corresponds to the first module, retain a second operating program and data, where the second operating program and data corresponds to the second module, and transmit the first operating program and data to the first option module, where the external device is configured to store a plurality of operating programs and data including the first operating program and data and the second operating program and data.

More specifically, Sexton does not describe or suggest the external device configured to store a plurality of operating programs and data including the first operating program and data and the second operating program and data. Rather, Sexton describes the RAM coupled to the main bus store user programs, and the hand held programmer including a keyboard on which the user types input information and including a display to permit the user to view the input information. The hand held programmer is used either to program a particular module with configuration information or to monitor the status of such module, to send a data request to the module using selected unique parameters numbers as desired. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Sexton.

Claim 19 has been canceled. Claims 11-18, 20, 21 and 24 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11-18, 20, 21 and 24 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 11-18, 20, 21 and 24 likewise are patentable over Sexton.

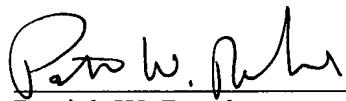
For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-21 and 24 be withdrawn.

Newly added Claim 35 depends from independent Claim 1, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 35 is also patentable over the cited art.

Newly added Claim 36 depends from independent Claim 10, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 36 is also patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patrick W. Rasche
Registration No. 37,916
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070